

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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LONDON FOR BILLER/STYLES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PRESIDENT ON CONCORDE

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM TRANSCRIPT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
COMMENTS ON CONCORDE MARCH 5, AS REPORTED IN NEW YORK TIMES.

QUOTE. QUESTION. I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR OPINION IS OF
THE FRENCH-ENGLISH CONCORDE, AND WITH THE ELECTIONS IN
FRANCE THIS WEEK, DO YOU FEEL THAT REJECTION OF THE CONCORDE
WOULD BRING THE POWER TO THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY, AND
ALSO I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT MANY FRENCH CITIZENS ARE COUNTING
ON THE SST TO KEEP FRANCE FROM GOING THE COMMUNIST WAY. SO
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THAT?

ANSWER: O.K. OUR GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS
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OPINION, MR. LAU. THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZED
THE CONCORDE TO COME INTO OUR COUNTRY FOR A 16-MONTH TRIAL
PERIOD, AND A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO I MADE A STATEMENT THAT I
AGREED WITH THAT DECISION AND THOUGHT THE CONCORDE OUGHT TO
BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO FULFILL ITS TRIAL ITSELF.

AS YOU KNOW, UNDER THE FEDERAL LAW I HAVE AUTHORITY OVER

DULLES AIRPORT, AND SO DID PRESIDENT FORD, AND WE'RE

PERMITTING THE TEST FLIGHTS TO COME INTO DULLES AND WE'RE
VERY CAREFULLY MONITORING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES
OF THE SST FLIGHTS, INCLUDING PRIMARILY NOISE.

KENNEDY AIRPORT IN NEW YORK IS NOT UNDER MY CONTROL AT ALL.
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, NO AUTHORITY OVER IT. THE
NEW YORK PORT AUTHORITY HAS THAT DECISION TO MAKE AND I
UNDERSTAND THAT ON MARCH 10 THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE A
DECISION WHETHER THE CONCORDE CAN COME IN FOR TEST FLIGHTS
OR NOT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT DECISION WILL BE.

I TALKED TO PRESIDENT GISCARD FROM FRANCE YESTERDAY ABOUT
THE CONCORDE, AND ALSO TALKED TO GOV. HUGH CAREY TO LET
CAREY KNOW, AS PRESIDENT GISCARD HAD ASKED ME TO, THAT THE
FRENCH PEOPLE CONSIDER THIS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE.

MY OWN STATEMENT TO PRESIDENT GISCARD IS THAT WE ARE NOT
CONCERNED ABOUT THE SST FLIGHTS BECAUSE OF COMMERCIAL
COMPETITION--ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO OUR OWN CONGRESS DECIDED
NOT TO GO INTO THE SST BUILDING BUSINESS--AND THE WHOLE
PROBLEM IN OUR COUNTRY IS NOISE AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
MAINTENANCE.

NOW, I MIGHT SAY ONE OTHER THING. I THINK THAT THE NOISE
STANDARDS IN OUR COUNTRY ARE GOING TO BE STRICTER AND
STRICTER IN THE FUTURE AND NOT MORE AND MORE LENIENT, AND
THE SAME NOISE STANDARDS OUGHT TO APPLY TO AN AIRPLANE,
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WHETHER IT'S A CONCORDE OR A LOCKHEED OR SOME OTHER KIND
OR ANY SORT OF AMERICAN COMMERCIAL PLANE, SO I THINK WE
CAN ESTABLISH STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS. I THINK THEY
OUGHT TO APPLY TO THE SST FLYING A COURSE AT SUBSONIC
SPEEDS AND OUR OWN COMMERCIAL PLANES THE SAME.

BUT IT'S THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION THAT WILL EXCLUDE THE
CONCORDE IF IT IS EXCLUDED AND NOT ANY SORT OF ANIMOSITY
TOWARD THE FRENCH PEOPLE, NOR IS IT ANY COMMERCIAL COMPE-
TITION BETWEEN US AND FRANCE ON SST FLIGHTS. END QUOTE.

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